GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4022
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004
INCREASE IN TELEPHONE DENSITY IN RURAL AREAS
Patil Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that inspite of demand of telephones in rural areas the subscribers have to wait for as long as two years to get the connection;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the rural telephone density;

(c) the details of bi-monthly rental chare of telephone in rural area;

(d) whether the Government is aware that in satara district of Maharashtra subscribers in rural areas are charged on the higher side of the prescribed bi-monthly rental charge; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop this over-charging of bi-monthly rental charge in rural areas of Satara district?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Yes sir, there are applicants waiting for telephone connections for more than two years, the main reason being demand from scattered, technically non-feasible areas, where the Telecom infrastructure is not available.

(b) The steps taken to increase the rural Tele-density by providing telephone connections in rural areas are as follows:-

(i) Provision of telephone connections on demand in areas where provision of connection is technically feasible.

(ii) Relaxation of criterion of laying the Under Ground (U/G) cable from 2.5 Kms. To 5 Kms from the telephone exchange in rural areas where capacity is available to cater to demand of telephone connection within the increased range of 5 Kms.

(iii) Provision of telephone on wireless in Local Loop (WLL) for rural areas to provide connections to the scattered demand.

(c) The details of bi-monthly rental charges in a Short Distance charging Area (SDCA) are as given in the table below:

Bi-monthly Rental Charges

Exchange System Capacity	Bimonthly rental in Rural Area
Less than 1000 Lines	Rs. 100
>1000 lines but <30,000 Lines	Rs.220
>30,000 lines but <1,00,000	Rs.300
1,00,000 lines and above	Rs. 420

(d) The subscribers in rural area of Satara district of Maharastra are not being charged rates higher than prescribed.

(e) Does not arise.